



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5619

February Session, 2006

* _____ HB05619HEDAPP031406 _____ *

**AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING SHORTAGES AND LOAN
REPAYMENT FOR NURSES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 19a-7d of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2006*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health may establish, within
5 available appropriations, a program to provide three-year grants to
6 community-based providers of primary care services in order to
7 expand access to health care for the uninsured. The grants may be
8 awarded to community-based providers of primary care for (1)
9 funding for direct services, (2) recruitment and retention of primary
10 care clinicians and registered nurses through subsidizing of salaries or
11 through a loan repayment program, and (3) capital expenditures. The
12 community-based providers of primary care under the direct service
13 program shall provide, or arrange access to, primary and preventive
14 services, referrals to specialty services, including rehabilitative and
15 mental health services, inpatient care, prescription drugs, basic
16 diagnostic laboratory services, health education and outreach to alert
17 people to the availability of services. Primary care clinicians and
18 registered nurses participating in the state loan repayment program or
19 receiving subsidies shall provide services to the uninsured based on a
20 sliding fee schedule, provide free care if necessary, accept Medicare

21 assignment and participate as a Medicaid provider, or provide part-
 22 time nursing services in school-based health centers. The
 23 commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
 24 provisions of chapter 54, to establish eligibility criteria, services to be
 25 provided by participants, the sliding fee schedule, reporting
 26 requirements and the loan repayment program. For the purposes of
 27 this section, "primary care clinicians" includes family practice
 28 physicians, general practice osteopaths, obstetricians and
 29 gynecologists, internal medicine physicians, pediatricians, dentists,
 30 certified nurse midwives, advanced practice registered nurses,
 31 physician assistants and dental hygienists.

32 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
 33 to the Department of Public Health, from the General Fund, for the
 34 fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the purpose of extending the
 35 primary care direct services loan repayment program to part-time
 36 nurses in school-based health centers.

37 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
 38 to the Regional Community-Technical Colleges, from the General
 39 Fund, for Operating Expenses, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007,
 40 and ____ dollars of such amount shall be used for the purpose of
 41 doubling the number of students enrolled in training programs for
 42 registered nurses.

43 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
 44 to the Department of Education, from the General Fund, for the fiscal
 45 year ending June 30, 2007, and ____ dollars of such amount shall be
 46 used for the purpose of doubling the number of students enrolled in
 47 the Licensed Practical Nurse Education Program of the Vocational-
 48 Technical High School System.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2006	19a-7d(a)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2006	New section

Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

HED*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

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